

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1616 without my signature.

While I share the author's goal of ensuring youth receive health services and other assistance for which they are eligible when they are released from custody, I am unable to sign Senate Bill 1616 as it may result in costly, duplicative administrative activities, and as crafted, it likely cannot be properly implemented. Consistent with our shared goal, I signed Senate Bill 1469 to improve coordination between county facilities and county welfare departments and ensure youth have access to health coverage.

While Senate Bill 1616 attempts to perform a similar process as Senate Bill 1469 for youth released from state facilities, as crafted it would require significant increases in duplicative administrative and training activities, and is dependent upon federal funds which are unlikely to materialize. I am also directing the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Health and Human Services Agency to work to encourage the author, counties and other stakeholders to develop effective strategies to ensure youth with disabilities can access cash assistance, health coverage and other services for which they are eligible upon their release.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger